

MARVEL
Comics



\$2.75 US
\$3.25 CAN
50 MAY
£1.45 UK

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

EXCALIBUR

GIANT-SIZED
SPECTACULAR!



30TH
ANNIVERSARY
1962 - 1992



THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN



ALAN DAVIS
A MARK FACHO
BASED ON AN IDEA BY
SVEN LARSEN

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS. THEY HAVE BANDED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL. STAN LEE PRESENTS...

EXCALIBUR!

ALAN DAVIS WRITER/ARTIST MARK FARMER INKER
JOE ROSAS COLORIST MICHAEL HEISLER LETTERER
TERRY KAVANAGH EDITOR TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
EXCALIBUR CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND ALAN DAVIS

WINNER LOSES ALL

THE CAVERNOUS BASEMENT
BENEATH EXCALIBUR'S LIGHT-
HOUSE HEADQUARTERS ON THE
WEST COAST OF ENGLAND...

RACHEL, STAY
CALM. DO NOT LET
NECROM BOAD
YOU...

HE CANNOT
ACCESS THE PHOENIX
FORCE WHILE YOU KEEP
IT IN A DORMANT
STATE.

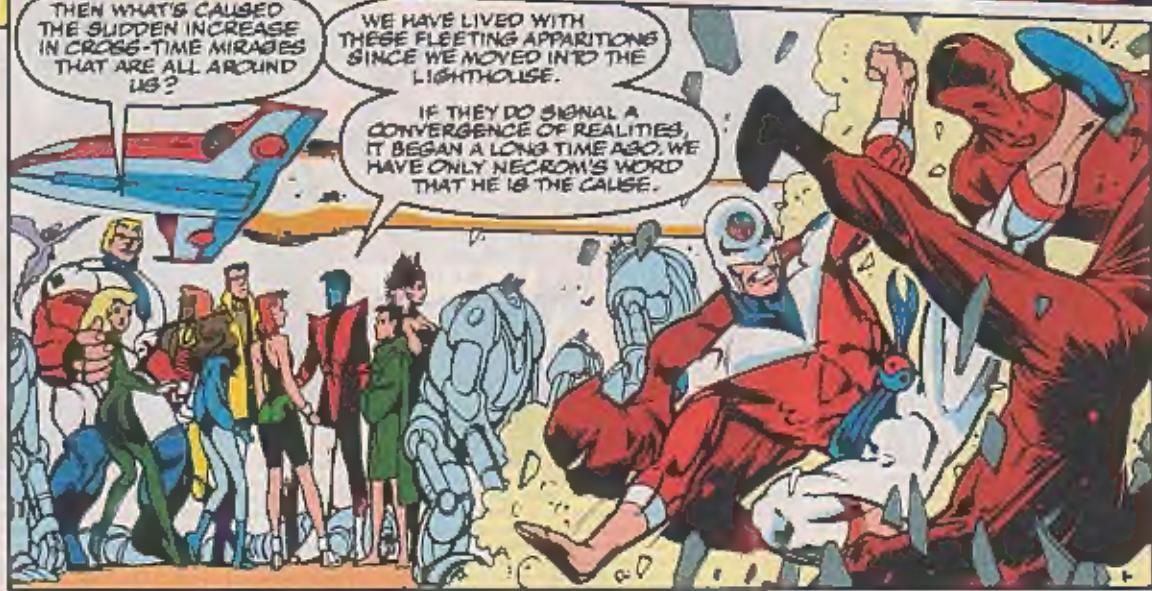
YOUR CHOICE IS
SIMPLE, RACHEL SUMMERS.
RELINQUISH THE PHOENIX
TO ME--

--OR WATCH YOUR
FRIENDS DIE AS I COMPRESS
THE MULTIVERSE OF ALTERNATE
EARTHS INTO A SINGULARITY.

I KNOW,
KURT... BUT I
CAN'T LET YOU
ALL DIE.

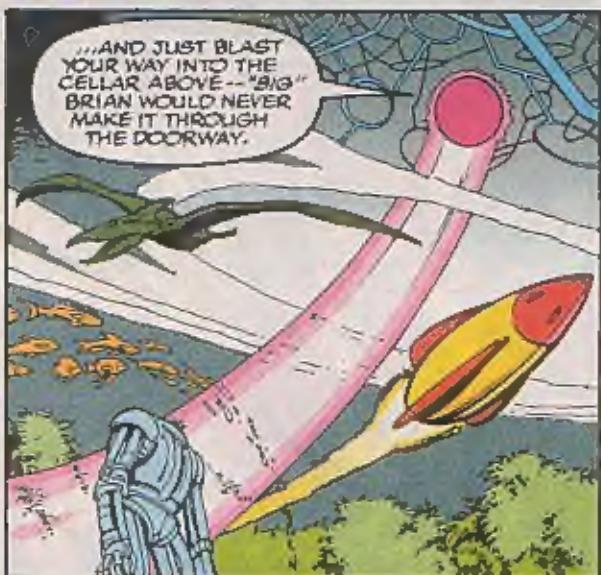


EXCALIBUR™ Vol. 1, No. 50, May, 1992. (ISSN 1045-1366) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Heisler, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1992 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$2.75 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$21.00; foreign \$13.00; and Canadian subscribers must add \$8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032892. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. EXCALIBUR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO EXCALIBUR, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in Canada.











...OTHERS MOVE TO JOIN THE FRAY.

THE LIGHTHOUSE IS STRAIGHT AHEAD AND -- GOOD LORD! THE SKY...

IT HAS BEGUN.

YOU CAN'T MEAN THE END OF THE WORLD, MISS WITHER- SPOON?

IT IS A POSSIBILITY, COMMANDER THOMAS, FORCES BEYOND MORTAL COMPREHENSION ARE AT WORK HERE...

...FORCES THAT OBSCURE THE FUTURE FROM MY HUMBLE CLAIRVOYANCE.

THAT'S NECROM BENEATH US NOW. HOLD THIS POSITION, HARRIS.

SIR?

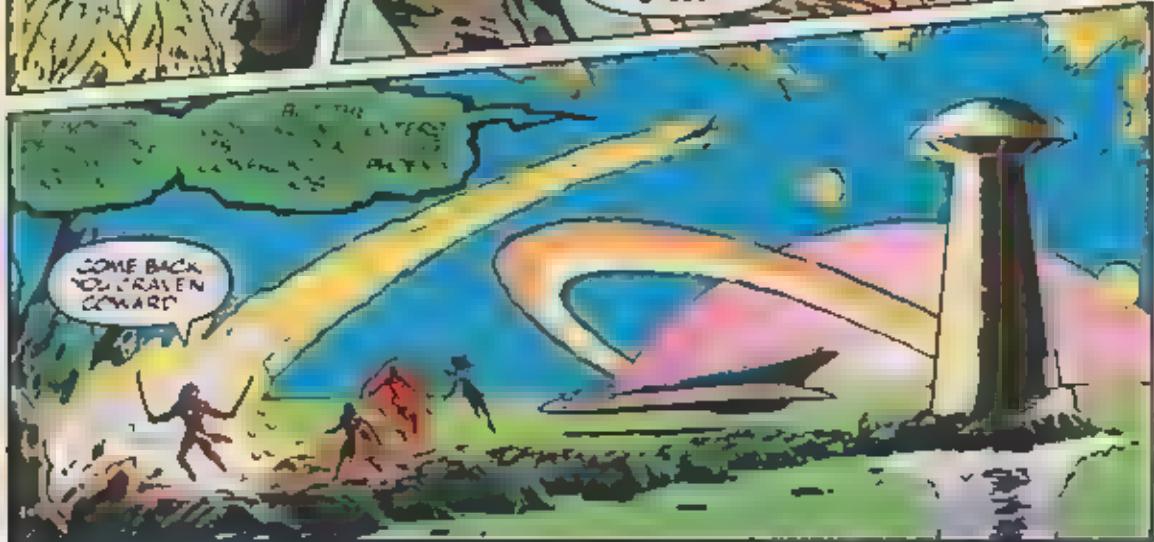
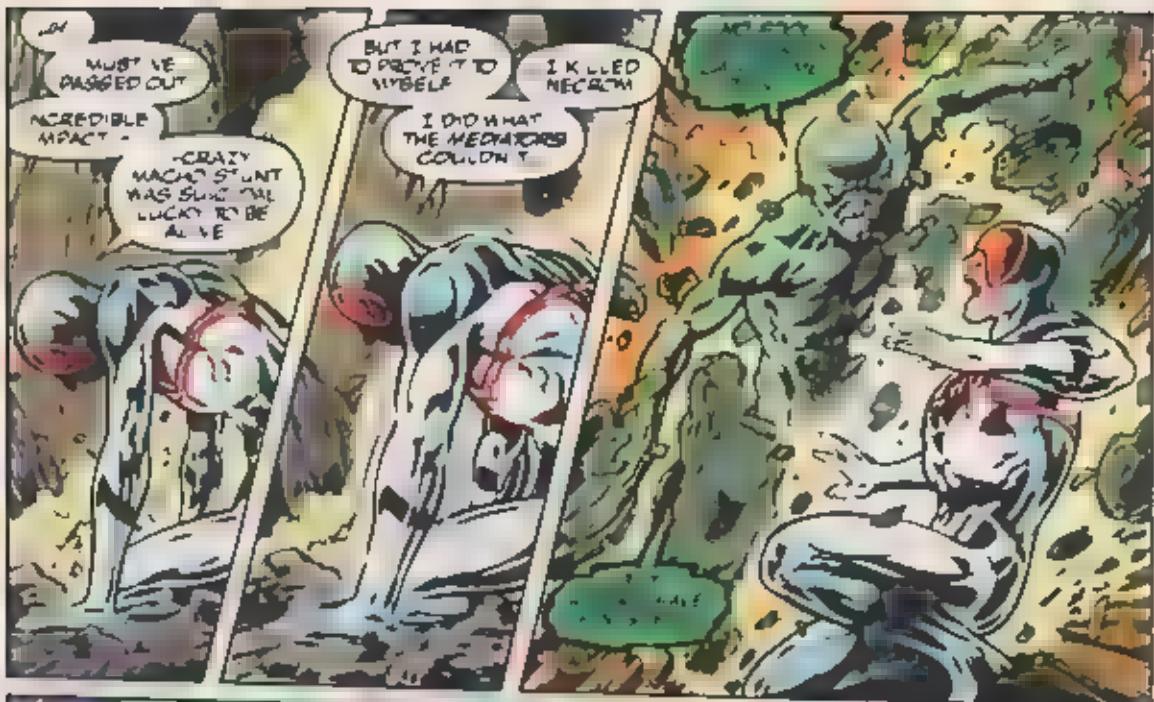


MICROMAX IS A MUTANT WITH THE ABILITY TO CONTROL HIS SIZE AND DENSITY.

AS HE FALLS, HE INCREASES BOTH...

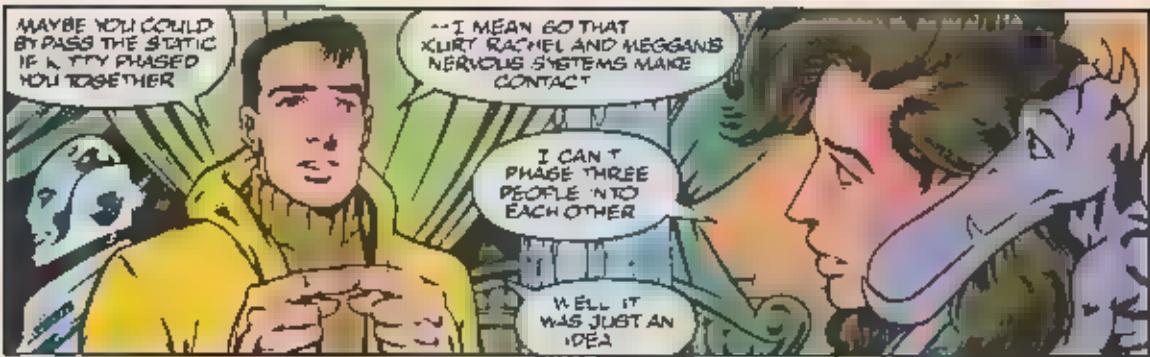
...UNTIL HE ACHIEVES THE MASS AND VELOCITY OF A SMALL METEOR.

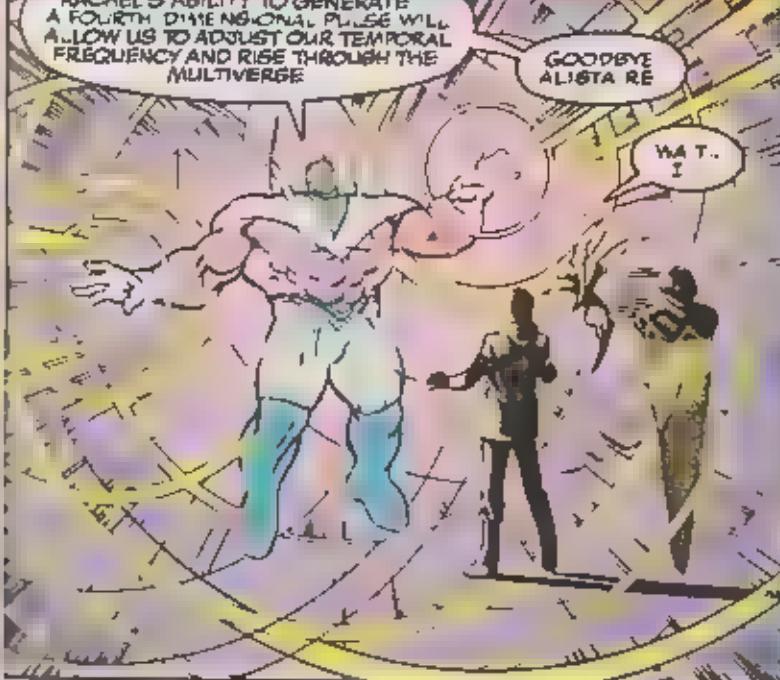




INSIDE







WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING
THE HOW OR WHY, I'VE
LIKE A
MUSICIAN COMPOSING
A TUNE BY FEELING AND
INSTINCT.

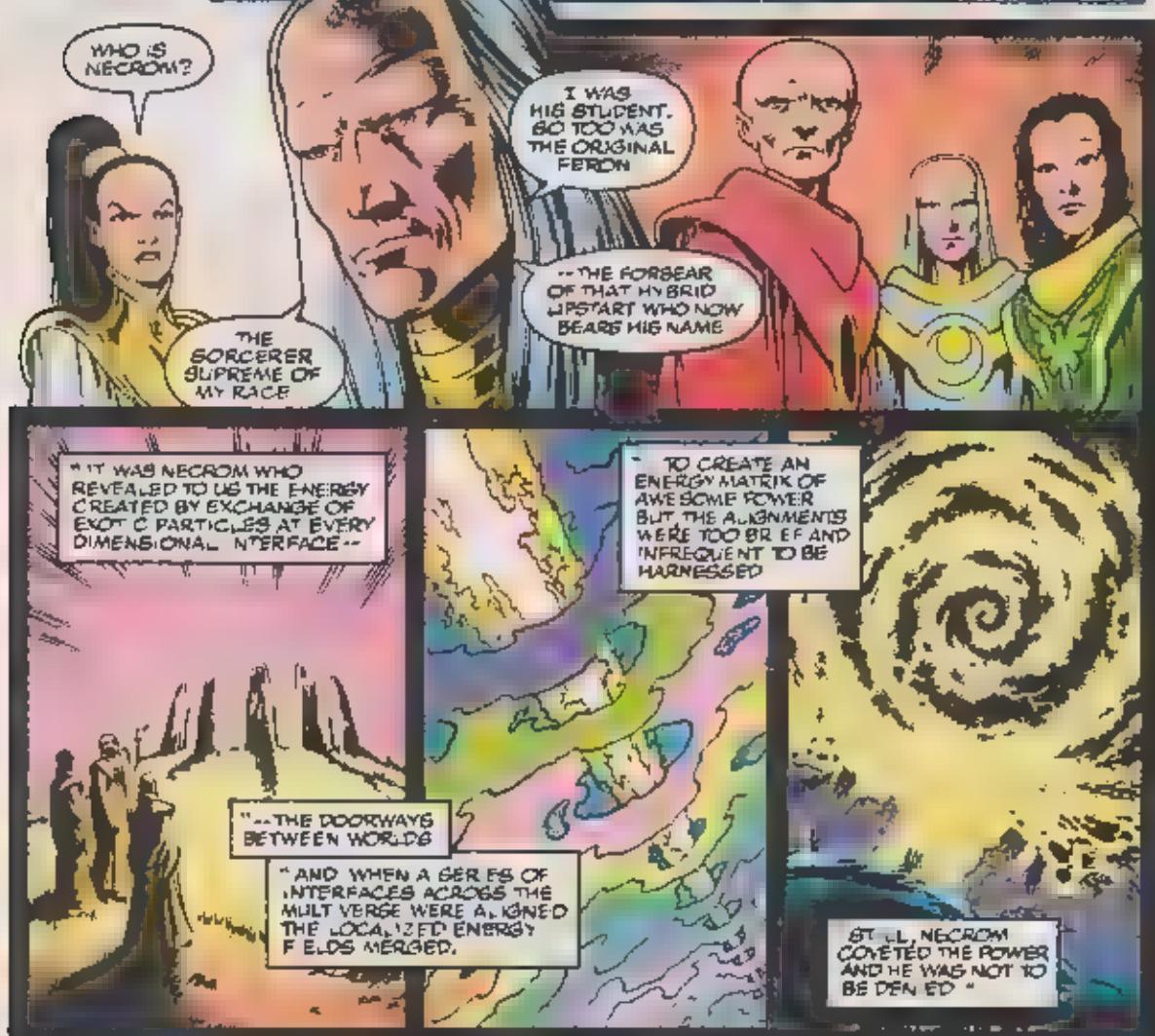
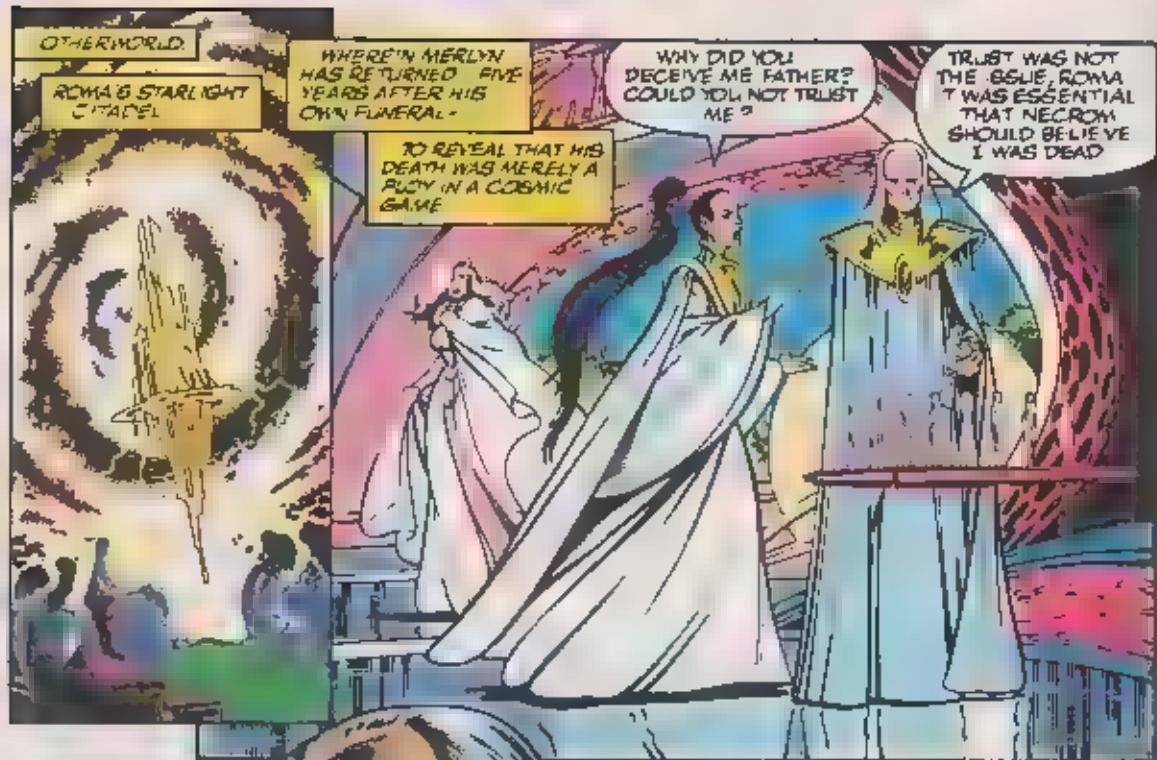
EXCALIBUR REDIRECT
POWER ABSORBED FROM
THE MATRIX BACK INTO
THE ENERGY LATTICE.

STIMULATING THE
CONTRACTING FILAMENTS
TO A NEW GROWTH ON
EVERY PLANE

AND, ALTHOUGH ALL
THE ALTERNATE EARTHS
IN THE MULTIVERSE
EXIST IN THE SAME
PHYSICAL SPACE,

SEPARATED ONLY BY
TINY VARIATIONS OF THEIR
VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCY

- EXCALIBUR MOVE SO RAPIDLY
FROM ONE PLANE TO THE NEXT
THEY APPEAR TO BE PASSING
THROUGH A TUBE THAT STRETCHES
FROM THEIR EARTH EARTH 616
TO THE FABLED REALM OF



"SO IT WAS WE TRAVELED TO EARTH, TO THE PRIME EARTH, TO THE LOCATION OF AN IMMIMENT ALIGNMENT."

"THE INTERFACE WAS MARKED WITH A TOWER, ERECTED TO AN ELDER GOD BY A RACE THAT WAS ANCIENT WHEN ATLANTIS WAS YOUNG."

"FERON PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN NECROM'S SCHEME."

"DECades of MEDITATION AND PIous ASCETICISM HAD ALLOWED HIM TO COMMUNICATE WITH A CELESTIAL ELEMENTAL."

"...NOW KNOWN AS THE PHOENIX."

"AT THE MOMENT OF ALIGNMENT FERON CALLED ON THE PHOENIX AVATAR TO PROJECT THE ESSENCE OF THE TOWER THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE."

"SO THAT IT EXISTED ON EVERY PLANE OF REALITY SIMULTANEOUSLY."

"...LIKE A COSMIC LYNCHPIN THREADED THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE."

"BUT NECROM HAD DECEIVED US, THE CREATION OF AN ENERGY MATRIX WAS MERELY THE FIRST PHASE IN A GAMBIT."

"TO COMPRESS THE ALTERNATE EARTHS INTO A SINGULARITY."

"HAD HE NOT MADE ONE FATAL MUSICALCULATION FERON - BUSTA NED BY THE PHOENIX - RESISTED NECROM'S MIGHTY WILL."

"THE ENERGY RELEASED BY THIS DESTRUCTIVE ASANITY WOULD HAVE ENDOWED NECROM WITH THE POWER OF A GOD."

"AS THEY FOUGHT I LEAPED INTO THE SEETHING CALDRON OF THE ENERGY MATRIX."

"...AND WAS SWEEPED ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE AS I STRUGGLED TO TAME ITS FURY."

"NECROM COULD HAVE EAS- LY KILLED GENTLE FERON BUT INSTEAD TORE OUT THE PORTION OF PHOENIX X FORCE THAT BONDID HIS STUD- DENT TO THE AVATAR..."

"ENGLING BOTH WOULD ENDURE GREAT SUFFERING"



"NECROM BOUND THE STOLEN PHOENIX FORCE WITH A POR- TION OF HIS OWN LIFE ESSENCE AND LEFT IT TO INCUBATE IN A CORPSE"

"THE CREATION OF THE ANTI-PHOENIX X WAS NECROM'S FIRST PLOT IN THIS CURRENT GAMBIT THEN HE VANISHED INTO THE MULTI-VERSE"

"FERON SPENT THE REST OF HIS LIFE AWAITING THE RISE OF THE ANTI-PHOENIX X HOPING TO ATONE FOR THE PAIN HE HAD CAUSED THE PHOENIX X"

"IN THE MEANTIME, I HAD MASTERED THE ENERGY MATRIX AND ESTABLISHED OTHERWORLD."

"IN AGONIZED CONFUSION THE PHOENIX FLED TO THE STARS"

"BUT ALWAYS NECROM ELUDED ME SO I CREATED THE CORPS TO PATROL THE MULTIVERSE"

"AND I BEGAN A COUNTER GAME T"

"WAS ALL THIS DECEPTION REALLY NECESSARY? COULD YOU NOT HAVE REPAIRED THE ENERGY MATRIX X?"



"SO YOU HID FEIGNING DEATH WHILE OTHERS DEFENDED YOUR EMPIRE"



"SHOULD I CONCERN MYSELF WITH THE FATE OF A FEW MORTALS?"

"I AM MERLYN."

"AND NOW THE GAME IS NEARLY DONE"

"THE THREAT THAT NECROM POSED IS ALMOST NEUTRALIZED"

"I HAVE PROVED MY SUPREMACY"

EARTH 66

WHERE THE EXCAL'BUR
LIGHTHOUSE STANDS AMID
A SHIFTING LANDSCAPE
OF ALIEN MIRAGES.

BY
ELTON'S
HORNED
SPEC'S

THESE
CROSS ME
PHANTOMS ARE
EVERWHERE

NECROM
IS HIDING
IN THIS
NEARITY
I CAN
SENSE HE
IS NEAR

KYLIN

SATNEEN?

IT
CAN'T BE.
YOU
DIED!

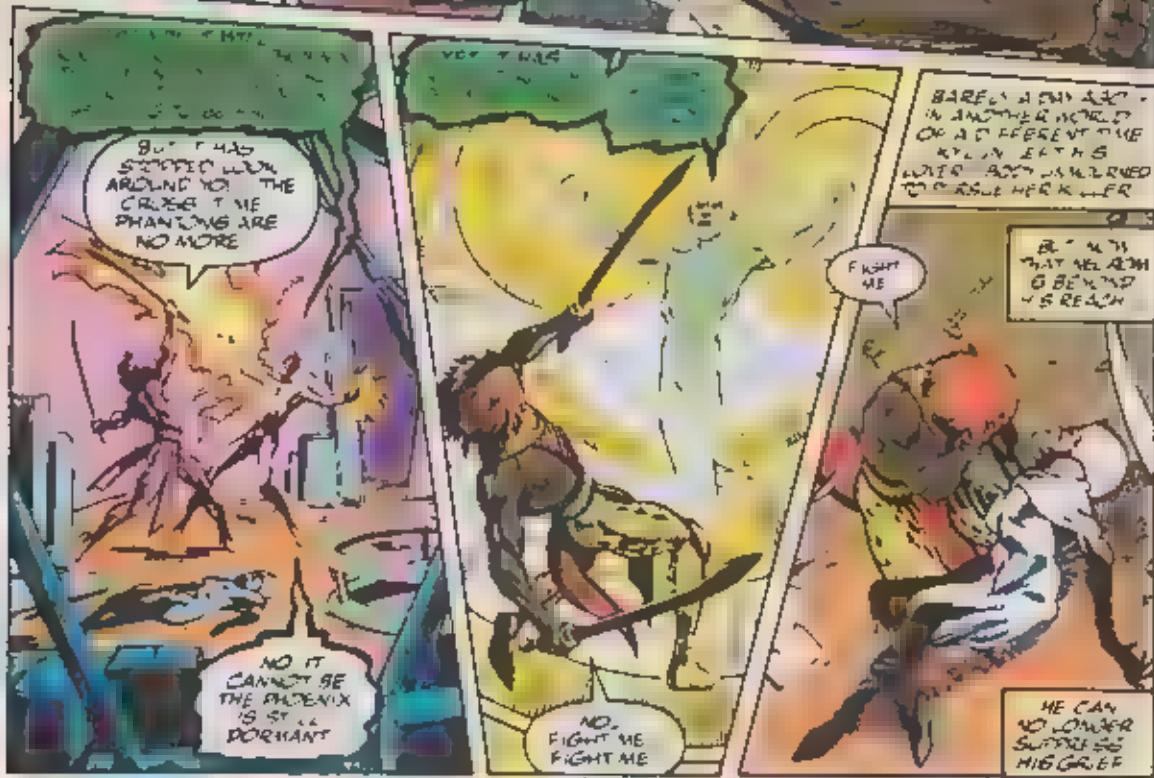
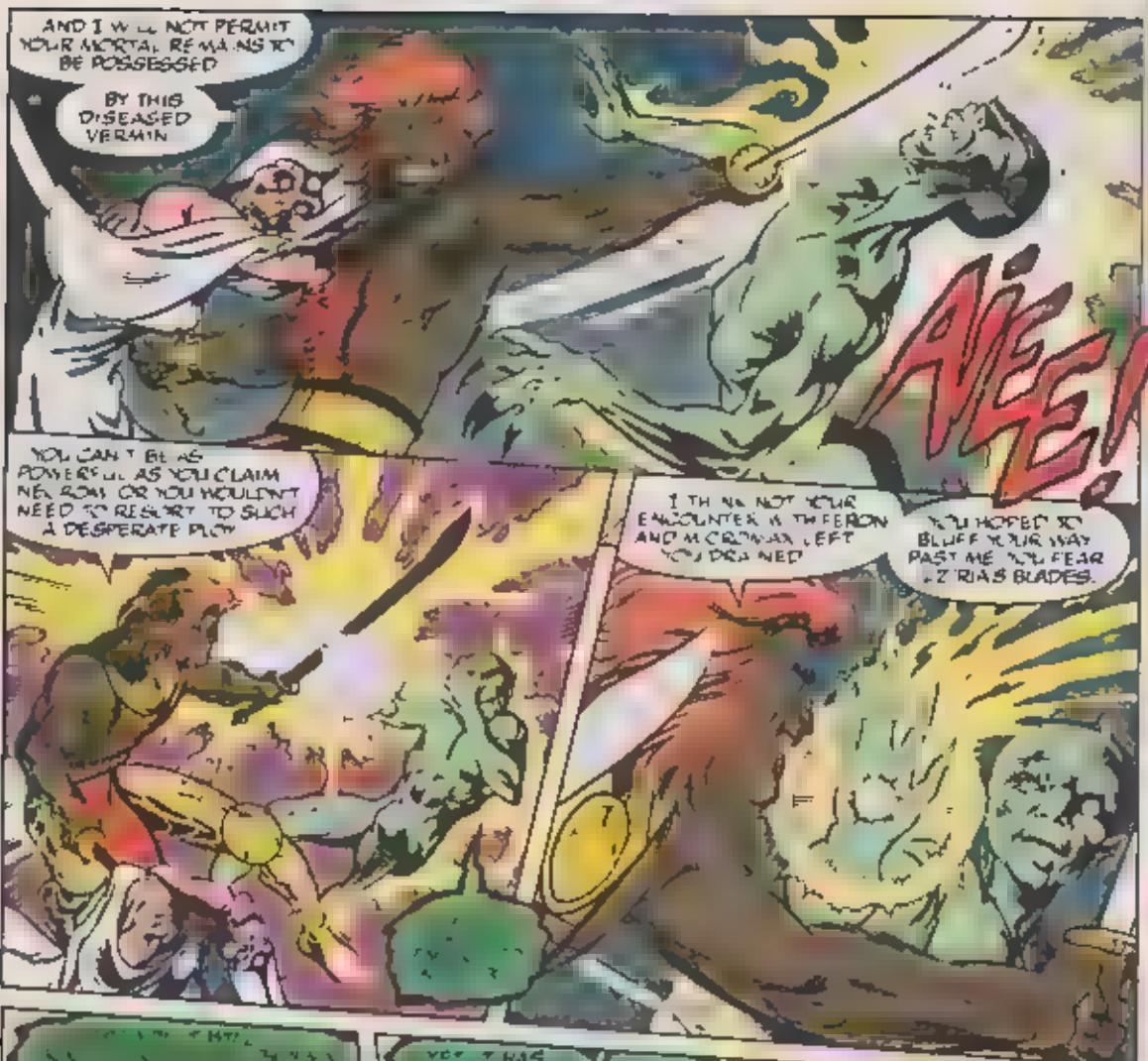
I
UNDERSTAND
YOUR HESITATION
MY LOVE, BUT I
AM REAL

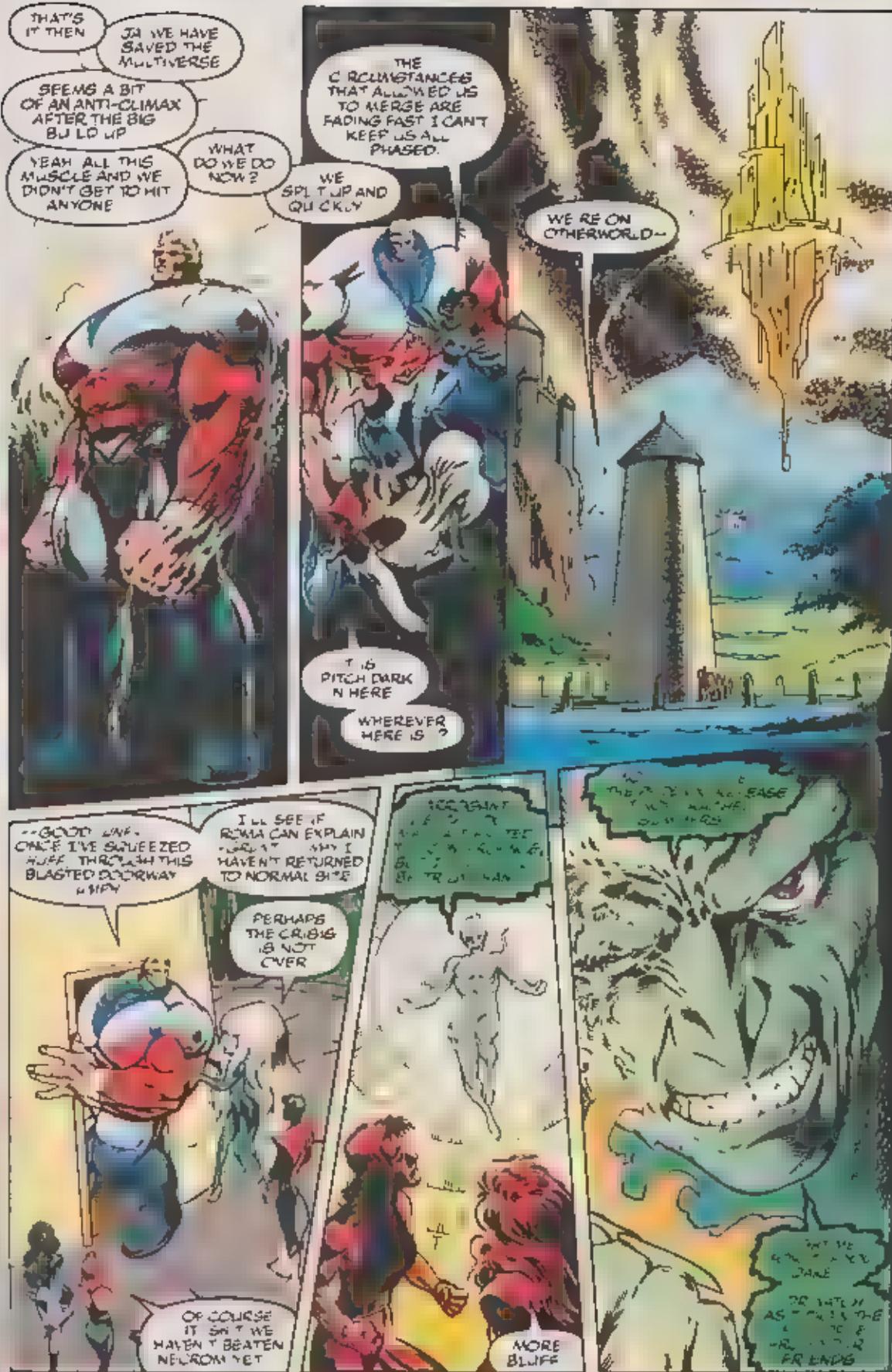
SEE, I
CAN TOUCH
YOU

FORGIVE
ME SATNEEN
I LOVE YOU
MORE THAN
LIFE ITSELF

NO, MY LOVE
THOUGH SOLEM
WOUNDED MY
MYSTICAL POWERS
DID RESTORE MY
VIGOR--

—AM I NOT
THE WITCH GREEN
OF EARTH?





YOU'VE GOT T
NECROM—I ALWAYS
KNEW IT WOULD
COME TO THIS

SORRY KURT YOU
WON'T STOP ME WITH
A NERVE PINCH—MY
TELEPATHY AND TELE-
KINESIS ARE BACK TO
FULL STRENGTH

BUT THANKS FOR
CARING ENOUGH TO
TRY.

NO,
RACHEL!

PLEASE
RACHEL THERE
MUST BE ANOTHER
WAY

I TRULY WISH
THERE WAS, BUT
NECROM IS DESPER-
ATE HE'S HURT
DYING—HE HAS
NOTHNG TO
LOSE

AND HE'S AN
ENERGY VAMPIRE
HE NEED ONLY MAKE
PHYSICAL CONTACT
TO KILL HE'S BOUND
TO GET AT LEAST
ONE OF YOU... I
COULDN'T LIVE
WTH THAT

BUT RACHEL,
YOUR MEMORY...
YOU MIGHT
DESTROY IT
FOREVER

YOUR FUTURE
IS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN MY PAST,
KIDD

I'M
PHOENIX.

I ACCEPTED
THE POWER AND
NOW IT'S TIME
TO PROVE I'M
WORTHY OF
IT

WITH A SINGLE THOUGHT,
RACHEL IS TRANSFORMED...

--AS THE COSMIC
AVATAR SHE HOSTS
ERUPTS FROM ITS
PSYCHIC CONFINES

IN THE SAME SCORING
INSTANT SHE BIDS HER
FRIENDS A TELEPATHIC
FAREWELL

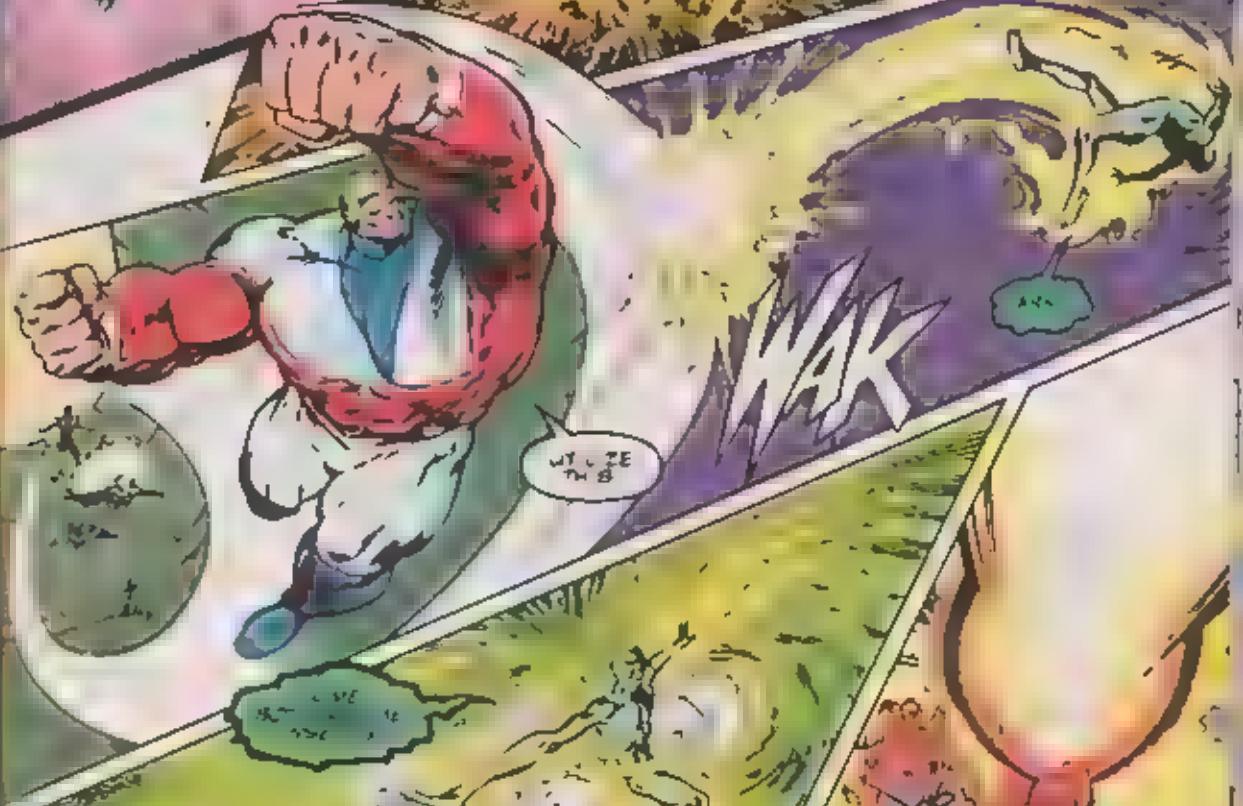
SO THEY SHARE
THE MOMENT OF
GLORIOUS ELATION...

THAT IS ENGULFED BY
A SICK EARTHTONE AS
THE SURGING CELESTIAL
FORCE SHATTERS THEIR
TEAMMATE'S MEMORY
INTO A MIST OF SPLINTERED
REMINISCENCE

BUT RACHEL
IGNORES HER
LOSS.

HER MIND IS
FOCUSED ON
THE PRESENT.

TO THE BATTLE
WE MUST GO!



WAK

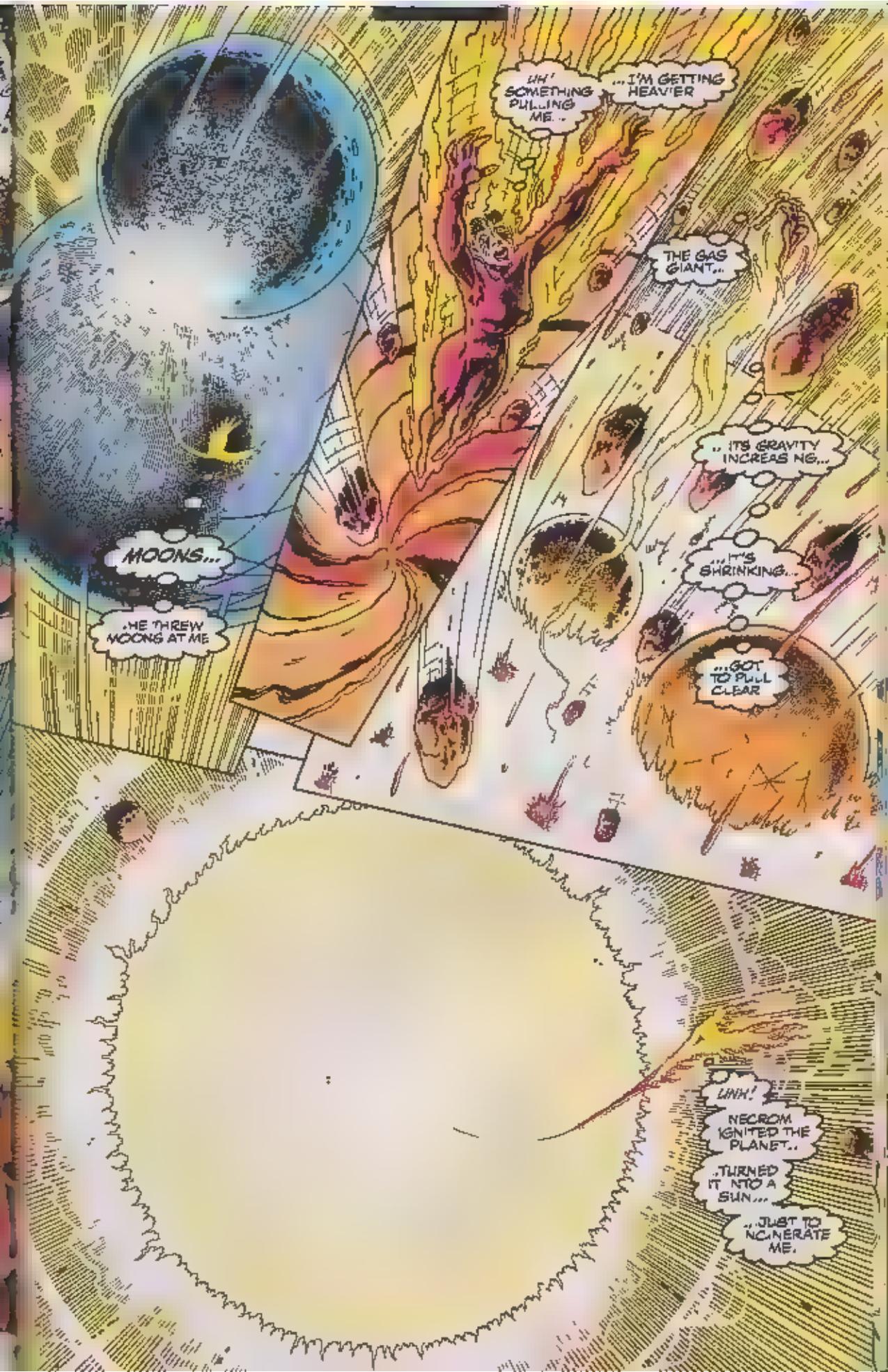
NO! I WATCHED
MY FRIENDS DIE IN
THE FUTURE





SO THAT
WE CAN GET
THE SIGHT
AND

DOING
SOMETHING
FOR
THE
PEOP





I'M A QUICK
LEARNER EAT
SOLAR FLARE O
MIGHTY
TEACHER

YOU CANNOT
KEEP ME FROM
MY SUPERGRANULE
DARE I NOT
SHOUT OR THAT
YOU CANNOT STAND
AGAINST MY
SUPERGRANULE

ARRRGH!

YOU DARE TO CALL ME

WHEN I TEACH
YOU WHAT
REAL POWER
CAN DO!

NECROM KEEPS
ESCALATING HIS
ATTACK. HE'S
DEVASTATED THIS
ENTIRE SOLAR
SYSTEM.

I CAN'T
CHANNEL
THAT LEVEL
OF POWER.

AND I
DON'T THINK
NECROM CAN
EITHER.

AND I'M
THROUGH
PLAYING BY
HIS RULES.

HE'S A BEAST
HE'S GOT TO EAT
YOU. REACT TO A
FAT LEONE'S
ATTACK - AND YOU
DO WHAT HE TELL
THE PHOENIX TO
DO.

ALL I NEED DO
IS TRAIN YOUR LIFE
FORCE AND THE
PHOENIX ESSENCE
TO BOND SO IT
WILL FOLLOW.

BARBARIAN
YOU'VE
LAST ACTS
BETRAYED

THAT'S WHAT
I COUNTED ON
SUCKER

OR HE WOULD
MAKE A DIRECT
ATTACK. INSTEAD
OF STRIKING AT
ME THROUGH OUR
SURROUNDINGS

HE'S STILL
MANIPULATING
ME...

IT WAS
A STALEMATE.

I COULDN'T
BEAT YOU
WITHOUT
RESORTING
TO YOUR
TACTICS.

...WE WOULD'VE
DESTROYED THE
UNIVERSE

WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE TO
ME?

THE PHOENIX
ISN'T POWER IN
ITSELF.

BUT IT HAS
THE ABILITY TO
TAP INTO THE
ELEMENTAL
FORCES OF THE
UNIVERSE...

AND THEY'RE
NEAR INFINITE

I KNEW YOU
WANTED IT ALL
SO I WILLED THE
PHOENIX TO
GIVE IT TO
YOU.

YEAH!

UK.

UK.

UK.

HOW MUCH
DO YOU THINK
YOU CAN ABSORB
BEFORE...

"...YOU
BURST?"

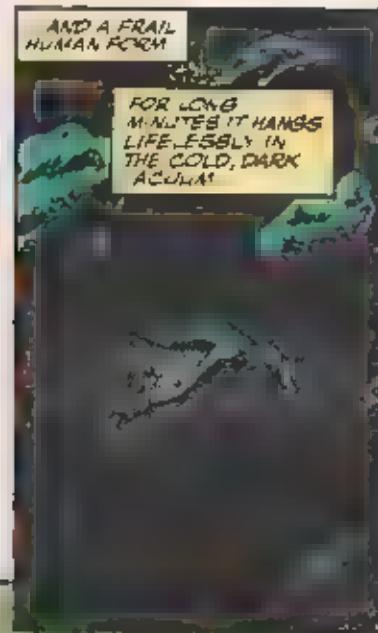
NECROM NEVER
"WEARS RACHEL'S
FINAL WORDS."

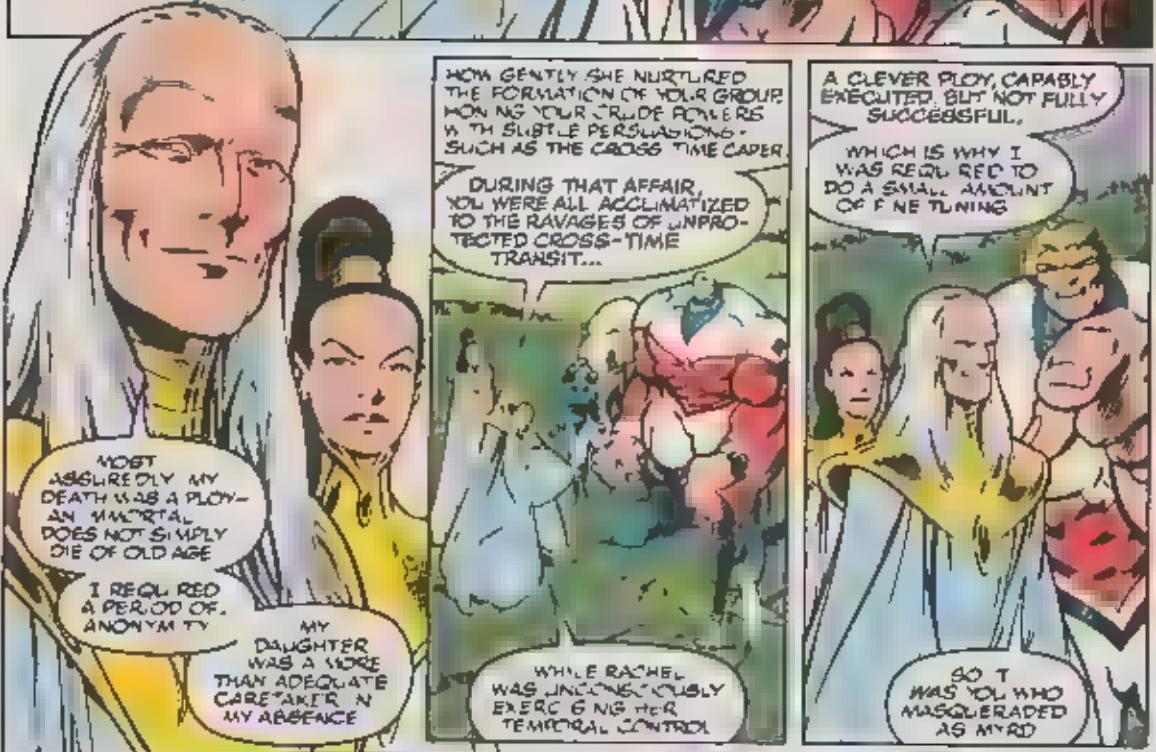
HE HAS ALREADY
EXPLODED INTO A
CLOUD OF DISCORPORATE
ATOMS THAT ARE
BLOWN INTO INFINITY...

...AS THE PHOENIX—REUNITED
WITH ITS STOLEN ESSENCE—
FLARES IN MAJESTIC
CELEBRATION.

WHEN THE DAZZLING
BRILLIANCE FADES,
A NEW HARMONY
SPREADS THROUGH THE
TORTURED ETHER

...AND NOTHING REMAINS
TO MARK THE EPIC BATTLE,
EXCEPT THE DEBRIS OF A
SHATTERED SOLAR SYSTEM...



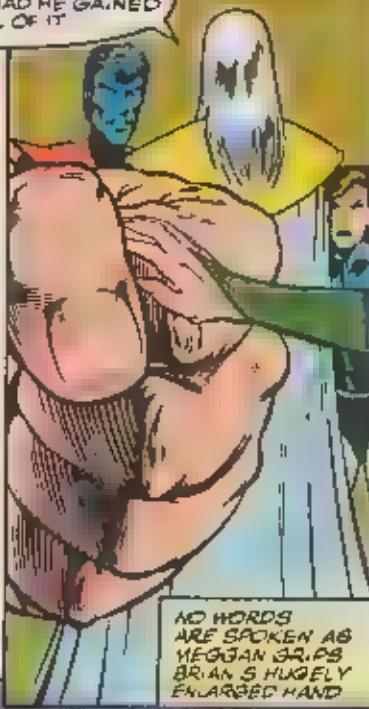


YOU SMUG SWINE WHAT GAVE YOU THE RIGHT TO USE US?

MY POWER

AND THE THREAT NECROM POSED TO MY ENERGY MATRIX

HE WOULD HAVE MISUSED THE POWER HAD HE GAINED CONTROL OF IT



AND BEGINS TO ABSORB THE EXCESS MATRIX ENERGY THAT BLOWS HIS GIANT FORM

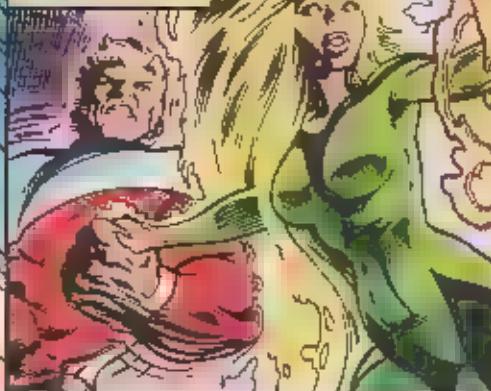
AS BRIAN SHRINKS BACK TO HIS NORMAL PROPORTIONS



MEGGAN METABOLISES THE ENORMOUS POWER



IT THEN DISCHARGES IT AS A TIGHTLY FOCUSED BEAM OF DEVASTATING FORCE--



...INTO A SINGLE SQUARE CENTIMETER AT THE BASE OF THE TOWER WALL



...THAT SPREAD INTO A SPLINTERING WEB.

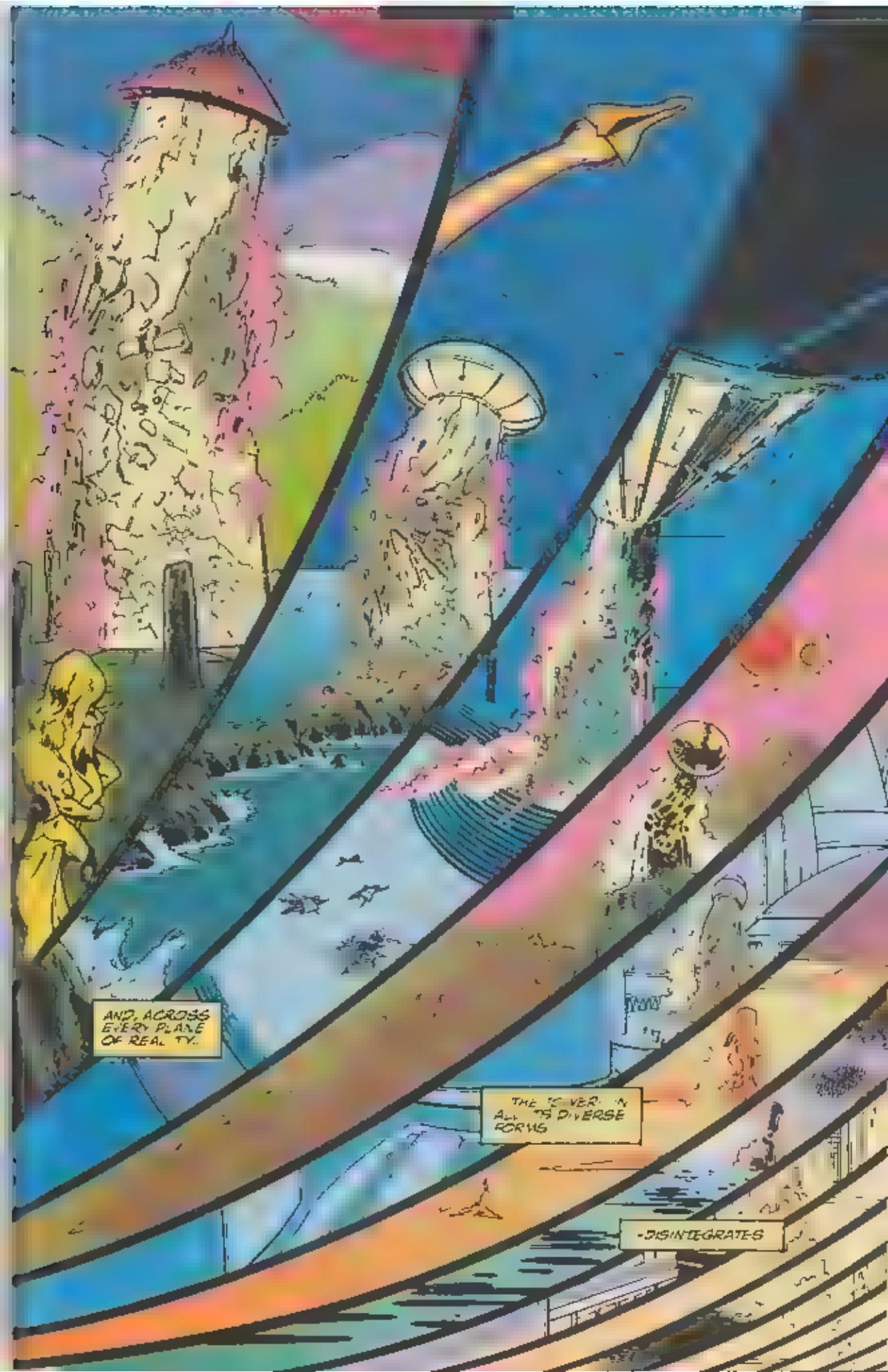
IT EXPANDS RAPIDLY GROWING NUMEROUS BRANCHES .

A MINUTE CRACK APPEARS.

...THAT SPREAD INTO A SPLINTERING WEB.

IT EXPANDS RAPIDLY GROWING NUMEROUS BRANCHES .

A MINUTE CRACK APPEARS.

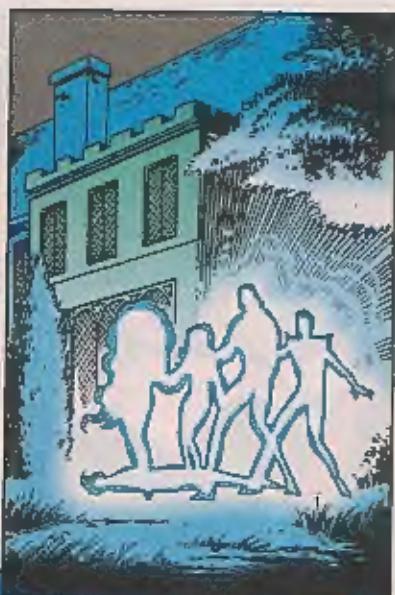


AND ACROSS
EVERY PLANE
OF REALITY

THE UNIVERSE
IN
ALL ITS DIVERSE
FORMS

-DISINTEGRATES-







Until Brian cuts his hair a bit shorter,
Make Mine Marvel.

Nick Gulliver
4 Wood End
Crowthorne, Berkshire
England

The bathroom certainly has gotten a lot of attention, lately. Check out the next letter, Nick!

Dear Sword Strokes,
In regards to Aaron Leopold's letter in issue #45, ARE YOU NUTS?

EXCALIBUR is one of the best titles Marvel has. Sure, some of the stories are a little unbelievable, but come on! They're so funny! The Techne! is priceless! The characters' strengths and weaknesses mesh in a way I haven't seen since X-MEN.

So until Kitty leaves Excalibur, Make Mine Marvel!

James Elliott
2636C 11th Ave. S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
Canada T2A 1G4

Everyone's entitled to an opinion, James! (But almost every letter-writer feels the way you do about this book!)

Dear Terry and Mark,

Oh yeah! The N-Men have arrived! It's about time you gave Nightcrawler more recognition. I'd like to see three things in his future:

1. The new leader of Excalibur.
2. A romance.
3. A spotlight issue on him, perhaps discussing his relationship with Mystique...

On a different note, everybody else in the book sees action except Excalibur. Enough with the character depth for now and let's kick some butt!

Otherwise, I'm extremely impressed with everything — especially Mr. Davis's drawings. Wunderbar! Until the N-Men have crumpets and tea for lunch, Make Mine Marvel!

Kenn Westman
509 Boxwood Ct.
Euless, TX 76035

Is Necrom and the Anti-Phoenix enough of a "light" for you, Kenn? Hope so!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I'm a big fan of EXCALIBUR, ever since I first saw them on their Marvel Trading Cards team picture. That's when I started collecting the comics. I'm writing for the first time, so I don't know what to say. Actually, I have a question that I hope you can answer: Who is Kylun?

Armand Alberto
1225 Mission St.
Philadelphia, PA 19148

We think issue #45 answered your question better than we could have, Armand!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Oh, wow! Is that valiant upholding of the Comics Code, or what? Kurt should get a CCA medal. Even though he was fighting for his life and jumping all over page 8 in issue #45, that loosely-tucked towel stayed right in

place. Way to go, Kurt! Death before de-towing! I'm impressed.

That makes twice that a new guy has moved into the lighthouse and trashed the toilet, though I hope this isn't going to be a recurring theme. I also hope they had the good sense to install a few extras while remodeling.

Things have been very interesting lately. I can't wait 'till everyone gets back together. Should be good. Meanwhile, what's Colm's mutant talent? And what's Kitty been up to at that dig?

Shane Hardy
769 M St.
Davis, CA 95816

And your questions have been answered before we could even print your letter, Sherle!

Dear Sword Strokes,

How do you determine who will do the art or write for EXCALIBUR?

Until Excalibur's lighthouse goes condo, Make Mine Marvel!

James Scheibel
880 Melton Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Good question, James. It's the job of the editor to find the creative people he or she thinks would be best for each book. Lots of things go into making a decision, including who is available and what style would best fit the book. Such decisions certainly aren't always easy, but everyone seems to agree on one thing — Alan Davis has done a terrific job bringing back the magic to EXCALIBUR!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Title: EXCALIBUR #46

Reading this issue gave me mixed emotions. As thrilling as the art and revelation of Colm the Barbarian is, they still couldn't make up for a sense of loss that came at the resolution of an outstanding plot-line. I am, of course, referring to Meggan's newfound knowledge of her true form. I guess that all things must come to an end.

As a die-hard Nightcrawler fan I must profusely thank Mr. Davis for the latest issues that have put Kurt in the spotlight. Once again, we humble readers are seeing Kurt's depth as a character and his bittersweetness of spirit (even with a broken leg!).

Brock Harmon
108 Short St.
Mvl, KY 41642

Meggan we shouldn't be reminding you of this, Brock, but Meggan's search is far from over. Yes, she has one small piece of the puzzle, but she still knows nothing about where she is from or her parents. So don't worry — we've left some mysteries unsolved!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I guess I'll start my letter the same way everyone else starts their letters (sigh)... I REALLY LOVED EXCALIBUR #46!!!! It was probably one of the best EXCALIBUR comics I've seen since the first ten issues. I've been following EXCALIBUR ever since issue #1. But, after a couple of issues of "The Cross-Time Caper," I was a little bored and confused. I couldn't keep track of all those alternate realities and alternate personalities.

This issue, though, really made sense out of the others. It made some sense of past occurrences, tying them into the current story. I also really enjoyed another appearance of the Neutr. I thought they were really cool in WOLVERINE: BLOODLUST.

Okay, I have some questions:

1. Are you ever going to have the real X-Men in this comic? I mean, half the team originated in the X-Men, so I think you could spare an appearance.

2. Are you ever going to have any new members join?

3. Are you going to give up this alternate dimension deal? I hope so.

4. Has Nightcrawler ever jumped from a skyscraper and teleported a second before he hit the ground? That would be cool...

So until Captain Britain gets the Captain Universe powers and saves the whole world from destruction, Make Mine Marvel!

Jim Wooldridge

(Address withheld upon request)

Okay, we have some answers, Jim!

1. The real X-Men were in this comic! Okay, maybe not in person, but the two teams have talked with each other via video screen and they are in contact. Check out issue #52 for a face-to-face meeting between Excalibur and key members of the X-Men!

Dear Terry and Mark,

I just wanted to write and let you know how much I've enjoyed the last several months of EXCALIBUR. It's amazing how Alan Davis has managed to tie up the numerous plot threads left dangling over the past few years, all the while keeping the stories fresh and entertaining each month. In my opinion, EXCALIBUR has surpassed the X-MEN and SPIDER-MAN as Marvel's hottest book.

In addition to the stories, Alan Davis and Mark Farmer have proven to be the most well-matched penciller/inker team since Byrne/Austin way back when. Alan draws such life-like people that I start to forget that these characters are fictional! Usually, no matter how well-drawn a character is, he or she is so idealized by the artist that the character begins to appear generic. Not so in Alan's work. His versions of Brian, Meggan, Rachel, Kurt, Kitty, and even Widget are simultaneously heroic-looking and individualized. I mean, Kitty actually looks like a young woman, rather than the kid or fully-grown adult she usually appears as. And, of course, Mark maintains these qualities — in fact, he enhances them. Even Glynn Oliver's colors stand out as superior work. I think that she's the best colorist in the business!

Oh well, that's enough unrestrained fatuity for now. One thing I would like to see in the coming months, however, is an appearance by one of the "alternate realities" Excalibur teams.

Robin Lockley
4 Hyannis Dr.
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Our esteemed creative team sincerely appreciates your praise, Robin. In this letters page, flattery will get you everywhere! And as for Excalibur teams from alternate realities...

NEXT ISSUE: As Excalibur rushes around the comatose Phoenix, dinosaurs run rampant through Britain... and with 'em you see who arrives to restrain them!